

REMARKS  
STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

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Claims 1 to 35 are cancelled.

Claims 40, 51, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, and 67 were amended.

Claims 36 to 69 are pending.

Claim 40 was amended to substitute the dependent reference to Claim 36 to Claim 39 to place this claim in better condition for issuance. Applicants note that "nucleotides 323 to 1648 of SEQ ID NO:1" encode "amino acids 2 to 443 of SEQ ID NO:2". No new matter has been added.

Claims 51, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, and 67 were amended to substitute the phrase "nucleic acid molecule" with the phrase "polynucleotide" to maintain proper antecedent basis and to place these claims in better condition for issuance. No new matter has been added.

Claim 62 was further amended to substitute the phrase "consisting of" with the phrase "consists of" to ensure this claim maintains proper grammatical context and to place this claim in better condition for issuance. No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully requested that the amendment(s) presented herein be considered and entered prior to issuance of a patent corresponding to the present application.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney in order to resolve these matters.

Although it is believed no fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account Number 19-3880 in the name of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

Respectfully submitted,

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